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DECEMBER 3, 1988 \$1.20*

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HOW ROGER RABBIT MADE A BUNNY OUT OF BOB!

The balding star reveals he took a battering for the box office

"WHEN you work with cartoons," explains Bob Hoskins, star of the blockbuster movie *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, "you gotta bounce off walls like cartoons to make 'em look real."

So Hoskins bounced . . . and was left with bruises so real that when his wife Linda took him to the Caribbean island of Antigua for a rest after the movie she was left aghast when he stripped for a swim at the beach.

"There wasn't an inch of me that wasn't bruised!" he laments.

That wasn't all that horrified Hoskins' wife. Because he had been standing for days on the *Roger Rabbit* set in water that was dyed to make it look like acid, his feet had turned green.

"So there I was sitting on a Caribbean beach with green feet and the rest of my body bruised like raw meat," he recalls with some distaste. "Linda said, 'You've got

to put some socks on. The whole beach thinks you have gangrene. And you've got to put a shirt on because the whole beach thinks I beat you up'. So there I was on my first holiday in years, with my shirt and socks on."

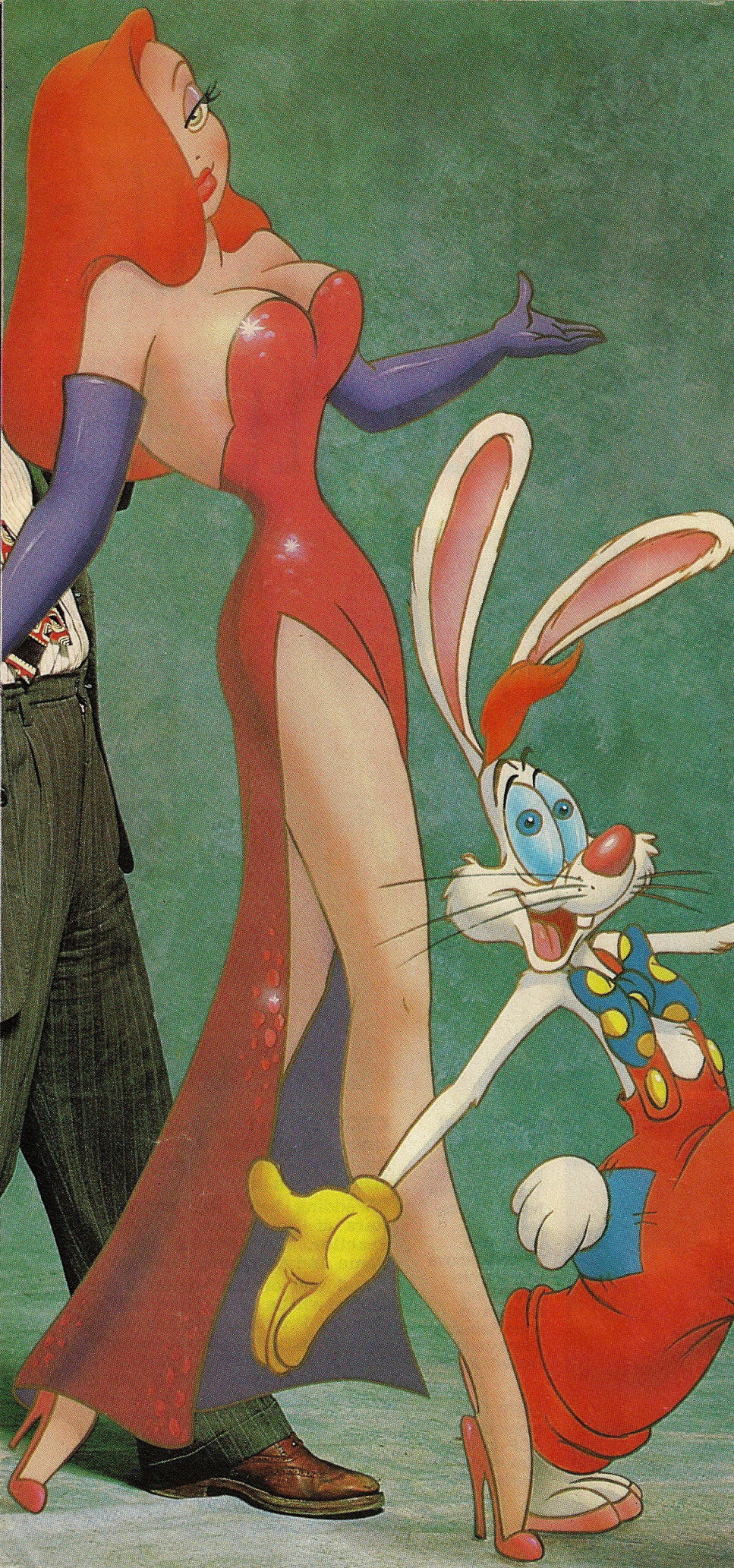
Perhaps that's when Hoskins realised why, when the producers of *Roger Rabbit* went looking for stars such as Harrison Ford and Robert Redford to play detective Eddie Valiant, their agents wouldn't even look at the script.

Whatever, he gleefully grabbed the role of the gumshoe who reluctantly gets involved when Roger is framed for murder after it is established that he flew into a jealous rage over his voluptuous wife Jessica.

"I leapt at the role," he says. "The script is like one of those old Sam Spade things and it had cartoons. I'm a cartoon buff."

Hoskins, the North Londoner





whose star has steadily risen with movies such as *The Long Good Friday*, *The Cotton Club* and *Mona Lisa*, has really hit the international big time with *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, which has joined the elite \$100 million club at the U.S. box office.

His peers have acknowledged him with a Cannes Film Festival Best Actor Award and an Oscar nomination and the balding actor with the fire-plug build can't quite believe his luck.

"I'll never bloody well forget it, mate," he says of his Cannes award. "I'd been down there to do some tub-thumping for *Mona Lisa* and then went back to London.

"Just after lunch — it's the last day of the festival — I got a call from Cannes asking me would I mind catching a plane from Heathrow down to Nice ... they wouldn't tell me for certain, but they suggested I'd probably be getting some kind of an award.

"Could I catch a plane? Blimey, all I was doing was a bit of gardening!"

What followed was a police escort all the way along the French coast to Cannes ... "sirens going, the full bit. I couldn't believe it".

But is it about to change down-to-earth Bob?

"Nah, it hasn't changed me," he says. "Why would it bloody well change me? I try just as hard."

*Michael Janusonis and
John Hanrahan*

Pulling a rabbit out of a hat!

Roger brings the magic back to the movies

PRODUCER Frank Marshall says it was 'like making The Invisible Man movie for six months'.

He is talking about the child of what Newsweek magazine describes as "a marriage made in Hollywood heaven" — the combination of the Walt Disney company, with its immense marketing powers and proud tradition of animation, and Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, responsible for the storytelling flair of landmark films such as ET and Close Encounters Of The Third Kind.

With them they brought director Robert Zemeckis (Back To The Future, Romancing The Stone), Oscar-winning animator Richard Williams and Industrial Light & Magic, the studio involved in special effects for half the 10 biggest box-office movies of all time.

Their new baby is Who Framed Roger Rabbit. It stars the now highly respected Bob Hoskins as private detective Eddie Valiant,

RIGHT: Roger Rabbit, his wife Jessica, and Bob Hoskins.
BELOW: Bob Hoskins, who plays private detective Eddie Valiant in the film.

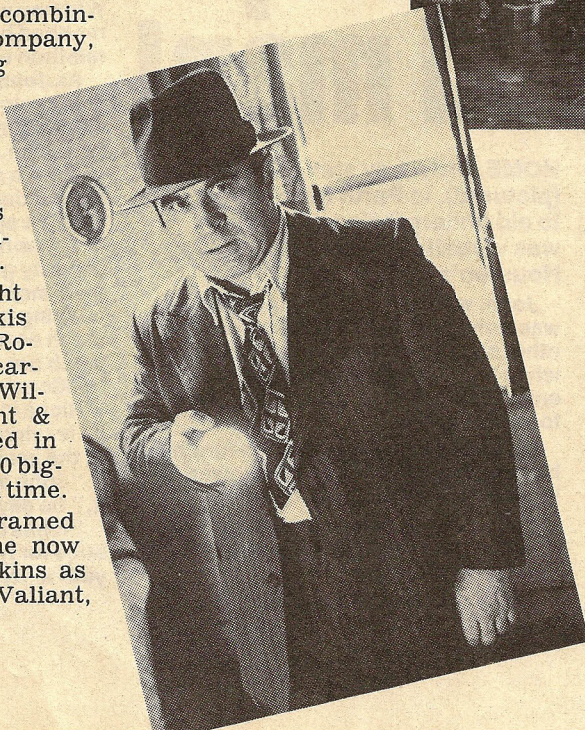


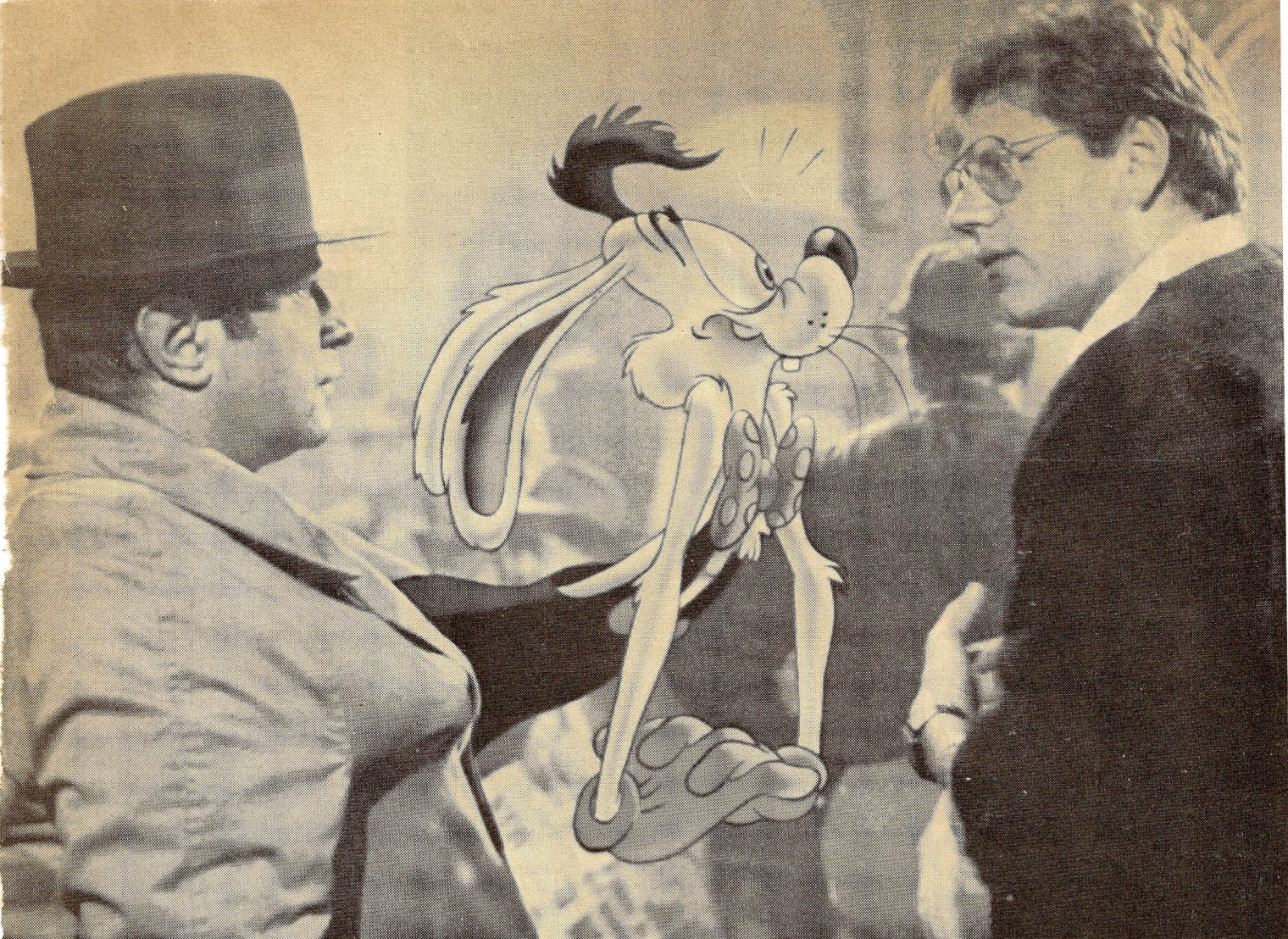
and an array of animated characters ("Toons") led by Roger and his wife Jessica, whose voice is provided by Kathleen Turner.

Already it has grossed more than \$100 million in the U.S. and is opening around Australia now.

Because of the interaction between humans and Toons, Hoskins and the rest of the actors had to shoot their scenes playing opposite thin air or, at best, props on poles. Animators later drew in the Toons frame by frame.

But Hoskins had two big helpers — his imagination and the on-set presence of comedian Charles





6 Roger was there. I could see him. I could smell him! 9

Fleischer, who provides Roger's voice.

Fleischer had the costume department make him a Roger Rabbit suit. Hoskins rehearsed each scene with him then, during shooting, Fleischer would move out of range, but stand to one side feeding Hoskins his lines.

"I think Bob thought I was mad at first," Fleischer recalls, "but he thanked me later because it helped him."

They worked so well together that Hoskins says: "We could even dance in step 10 feet (three metres) from one another. We could improvise together, a little like telepathy. But Roger was there. I could see him. I could smell him!"

He also could "see" the other Toons by using his imagination.

RIGHT: Toon character Baby Herman with Bob Hoskins.

ABOVE: Hoskins, Roger and director Robert Zemeckis.

"The problem was," he says, "doing it 16 hours a day for six months I lost control. I'd be seeing weasels (the Toon villains) turning up in odd places.

"It gets harder because you get tired. I'll never forget sitting with a couple of the crew one morning having breakfast and one guy said,

'What's the time?' I said, 'Breakfast time' and he said, 'Did I go home?'. I said, 'What?' and he said, 'Did I go home last night? I can't remember'.

"That's how it was — you went home, you went to sleep, got up, got back on the set. We could never remember going home.

From Michael Janusonis in Los Angeles

